

ABSTRACT

The method and apparatus for distributing multimedia content over a network to a plurality of networked and portable devices affords a system operator the ability to control the unauthorized distribution and playback of content transferred by the system operator to a user of that system. The transferred content in the form of encrypted data is distributed over the network from a set-top terminal / personal versatile recorder to at least one playback device, in accordance with rights established by the system operator or the content provider, where the content is decrypted for subsequent playback by the authorized device (s). The method also addresses illegal propagation of content.

1. A method for distributing multimedia content over a network to a plurality of networked and portable devices, the method comprising: a system operator transferring content to a user of that system; the transferred content being in the form of encrypted data; the encrypted data being distributed over the network from a set-top terminal / personal versatile recorder to at least one playback device; the distribution being in accordance with rights established by the system operator or the content provider; the content being decrypted for subsequent playback by the authorized device (s); the method also addressing illegal propagation of content.